

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04422 050921Z

43

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

S E C R E T LISBON 4422

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FOR GENERAL WIGLEY EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ARMA REPORT ON COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE POL/MIL SITUATION  
BY MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH ARMA GENERAL ALTINO DE MAGALHAES,  
MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES, MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS  
PERTAINING TO THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.  
THESE INCLUDED HIS OPINIONS OF THE AFM ASSEMBLY, THE  
PROBABILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT IN PORTUGAL, A SEPARATIST  
MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH, AN EXAMPLE OF PCP OPERATION AND THE  
AVAILABILITY OF A NATIONAL LEADER. (ACTIVITY IN THE AZORES  
REPORTED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.)

1. GENERAL MAGALHAES IS TOTALLY DISGUSTED WITH THE AFM ASSEMBLY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 04422 050921Z

HE FEELS IT IS A TRAITOR TO THE ARMED FORCES, THE PORTUGUESE

PEOPLE AND THE REVOLUTION. HE TERMED IT A "SACO DE RATOS"--  
A "SACK OF RATS."

2. HE SEES ARMED CONFLICT, PROBABLY IN THE FORM OF A LIMITED CIVIL WAR, AS INEVITABLE. HE FEELS THAT THE GOVERNMENT, LABOR UNIONS AND MEDIA ARE SO THOROUGHLY UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL OR INFLUENCE THAT ONLY VIOLENCE WILL ALTER THE SITUATION-- (AND HE IS NOT, BY NATURE, A VIOLENT MAN).

3. MAGALHAES IS FROM BRAGANCA AND HIS FIVE BROTHERS LIVE IN THE NORTH, FROM PORTO TO BRAGANCA. HE SAYS THERE IS A STRONG SEPARATIST MOVEMENT, WHICH SEEKS AS A MINIMUM, REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL. THE DECISION OF THE "MOVEMENT" TO ENCOURAGE THE ENTIRE POPULATION TO "RISE UP" AGAINST THE LISBON GOVERNMENT IS NOT FAR OFF. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE ARE PROUD OF THEIR NATIONAL HERITAGE, THEY ALSO HAVE STRONG REGIONAL AFFILIATIONS. THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ARE FROM THE NORTH ARE NUMEROUS. FOR THEM TO ARRAY THEMSELVES AGAINST THEIR OWN "TERRA" WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT THING TO DO, PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF PCP OPERATION, MAGALHAES OFFERED THE FOLLOWING: THE HUSBAND OF HIS LONG-TIME FAMILY COOK IS A STEVEDORE ON THE DOCKS OF LISBON. THE HUSBAND WAS GIVEN 48 CONTS (AROUND \$1900) BY THE PCP--A PRINCELY SUM TO HIM. PURPOSE: MAKE PICKET SIGNS. HE WAS GIVEN A RECEIPT TO SIGN AND WAS THEN TOLD THAT IF THE FASCISTS EVER RETURNED, HE WOULD GO TO JAIL OR WORSE, BECAUSE THEY WOULD GET THE RECEIPT. THE GENERAL TOLD HIM TO SPEND THE MONEY ON HIMSELF AND NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE PCP "MACACOS" (MONKEYS). POINT OF ALL THIS: THE PCP HAS MONEY TO BURN. CURRENTLY THE PS, PPD, OR THE AFM FOR THAT MATTER, CAN'T MATCH THEM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A LIST OF MEN WHO HAVE ENOUGH STATURE TO LEAD PORTUGAL OUT OF THIS DIFFICULT TIME, MAGALHAES SAID THERE IS ONLY ONE: MARIO SOARES. HE HAS NOT SUPPORTED SOARES IN THE PAST, NOR DOES HE CARE FOR THE SOCIALIST LINE, BUT SOARES IS, IN HIS OPINION, THE ONLY MAN, CIVIL OR MILITARY, WHO STANDS A CHANCE OF RALLYING THE COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT PORTUGAL NEEDS A SINGLE STRONG LEADER, BECAUSE THAT IS THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 04422 050921Z

ONLY GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH, GIVEN THEIR HISTORY. COMMENT: ARMA FEELS MAGALHAES IS, HIMSELF, AN OUTSIDE BET AS A NATIONAL LEADER. HE IS ONE OF TWO OFFICERS WHO WERE GENERALS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. THE OTHER IS COSTA GOMES. MAGALHAES'S REPUTATION IS UNTARNISHED BY THE IDIOCIES OF THE AFM AND THE CURRENT REGIME. HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED WITHIN THE ARMY (HAVING BEEN VOTED BY ALL INFANTRY OFFICERS AS THE MAN THEY WANTED FOR "DIRECTOR OF INFANTRY," WHICH HE

TURNED DOWN) AND HE IS VIRTUALLY LIONIZED BY THE AZOREAN  
PEOPLE--EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN AS FAIR TO THE PCP AS TO THE  
PPD ON THE ISLANDS. HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP OVER THE YEARS WITH  
COSTA GOMES AND HIS OUTSTANDING REPUTATION IN ANGOLA MAY HAVE  
SAVED HIM TO DATE. HIS CURRENT, STRONG SUPPORT OF JUSTICE  
FOR THE AZORES, AN ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE (HE REFUSED GOP  
"THEATRE" GROUPS ACCESS TO THE AZORES BECAUSE THEIR PROGRAM  
OF "DYNAMIZATION" WAS PRO-COMMUNIST) AND HIS UNWAVERING  
INTEGRITY MAY SAVE HIM FOR THE FUTURE.  
CARLUCCI

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